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Agenda item 52 (a)

Groups of countries in special situations: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Awsan **Al-Aud** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 52 (see A/63/417, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 28th and 31st meetings, on 20 November and 10 December 2008. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/63/SR.28 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/63/L.39 and A/C.2/63/L.57

2. At the 28th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/63/L.39), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,
>
> "*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/63/417 and Add.1 and 2.

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"*Recalling further* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 62/203 of 19 December 2007,

"*Recalling further* the Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/37 of 25 July 2008,

"*Taking note* of the ministerial declaration adopted at the 2008 annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Least Developed Countries,

"*Reaffirming* that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and his note on the modalities of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

"2. *Welcomes* the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and notes the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;

"3. *Welcomes* the Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development;

"4. *Decides* to convene, as called for in paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in the year 2011 for the duration of seven working days, with the following mandate:

(a) To undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners and to identify obstacles and constraints encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them, as well as new challenges and emerging issues;

(b) To formulate and adopt a new framework for partnerships for the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of the least developed countries and their meaningful and progressive integration into the world economy;

"5. *Also decides* to convene intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings in two parts in 2010 and 2011 to prepare for the Conference, to be preceded by regional preparatory meetings in Africa, which would include the Americas, and in Asia and the Pacific, supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations;

"6. *Further decides* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will be the focal point for the preparation of the Conference, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, in order to ensure its effective preparation and to mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

"7. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the international financial and trade institutions and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide the necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process;

"8. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of the resident coordinators and country teams in preparations for the Conference, in particular in the country and regional level preparations;

"9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to mobilize the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system in the preparatory process for the Conference in a coordinated and coherent manner by, inter alia, utilizing the coordination mechanisms at his disposal, including the Senior Management Group, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-fourth session a report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action as well as the implementation of the present resolution, including the state of the substantive, organizational and logistical preparations for the Conference."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010" (A/C.2/63/L.57), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Awsan Al-Aud (Yemen), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.39.

4. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Committee made oral corrections to operative paragraphs 4 (d) and 5 of the draft resolution, as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 4 (d), which read:

"(d) To mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries and, in this regard, formulate and adopt the framework for a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners",

was replaced by the following:

"(d) To mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries and, in this regard, formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners";

(b) Operative paragraph 5, which read:

"5. *Also decides* to convene, towards the end of 2010 or in early 2011 or at both times, an intergovernmental preparatory committee, which would hold no more than two meetings".

was replaced by the following:

"5. *Also decides* to convene, towards the end of 2010 and/or in early 2011, an intergovernmental preparatory committee, which would hold no more than two meetings".

5. Also at the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Committee made oral corrections to the Arabic text of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

6. Also at the 31st meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57, which superseded the statement of programme budget implications issued earlier as document A/C.2/63/L.65, and read as follows (see A/C.2/63/SR.31):

1. In connection with draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57 entitled "Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, which hereby supersedes the statement of programme budget implications issued as document A/C.2/63/L.65.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10 of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene, as called for in paragraph 114 of the Brussels Programme of Action, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011 for a duration of not more than five working days, the mandate of the Conference being the following:

(i) To undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade 2001-2010 by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them;

(ii) To identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them;

(iii) To reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, in particular the needs related to sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions and

to support the least developed countries in eradicating poverty and integrating beneficially into the global economy;

(iv) To mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries and, in that regard, to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners;

(b) Decide to convene, towards the end of 2010 and/or early in 2011, an intergovernmental preparatory committee, which would hold no more than two meetings;

(c) Decide that the meetings of the preparatory committee would be preceded by two regional-level preparatory meetings, one in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the other in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in the context of the regular annual sessions of each Commission, those regional-level meetings to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations;

(d) Stress that the Conference and the preparatory activities should be carried out so as to remain within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2010-2011 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

(e) Decide that the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States would be the focal point for the preparations of the Conference, in accordance with the mandates given in General Assembly resolution 56/227, to ensure that those preparations are carried out effectively, and to mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of United Nations system organizations.

3. With regard to operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57, it is recalled that, under the established headquarters principle, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and meetings of its preparatory committee would be held at New York. It is, therefore, understood, in accordance with section 1, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 40/243, that any additional costs resulting from a change of venue of these meetings from New York would be borne by the host country.

4. Although the note by the Secretary-General outlining the modalities of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/63/284) has been submitted to the General Assembly, a decision on the organizational aspects, including the dates and venue of the Conference and the duration and dates of the preparatory committee, will be taken by the Assembly later during its current session in accordance with operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution. There would also be a need for public information services and promotional events to ensure the success of the Conference.

5. While the decision to convene the Conference and the intergovernmental preparatory committee would give rise to additional resource requirements with regard to conference servicing, support services and public information

services, it is not feasible for the Secretariat to determine the full extent of those requirements until such time as specific information on the dates and venue of the Conference and the duration and dates of the preparatory committee is available.

6. Under the provisions of operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, two regional-level preparatory meetings would be held, one in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the other in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in the context of the regular annual sessions of each Commission, to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations.

7. Given that the regional preparatory meetings would be held in the context of the regular annual sessions of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, servicing of those meetings would be provided from within the existing capacity of the two regional commissions.

8. Pursuant to operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States would serve as the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, in accordance with the mandates given in General Assembly resolution 56/227, to ensure that those preparations are carried out effectively, and to mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system.

9. Initially, a statement of programme budget implications (A/C.2/63/L.65) was submitted with resource requirements for immediately beginning the preparatory work in 2009 for the Conference. However, in the light of further consultations and the fact that the precise modalities of the Conference will only be agreed upon during the remainder of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, the Secretariat is now prepared to carry out any preparatory activities that might be needed during 2009 from within existing resources. Efforts would also be made to mobilize funds from United Nations system partners also active in this field.

10. Requirements for the activities by which the provisions of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57 would be implemented in 2010-2011 would be considered within the framework of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

11. With regard to the provisions of operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

12. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57, no financial implications would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57, as orally corrected (see para. 10).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Canada (on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand), France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Japan and Bangladesh (on behalf of the Group of the Least Developed Countries) (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.39 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3]

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 62/203 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/37 of 25 July 2008,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Least Developed Countries on 29 September 2008 in New York,[5]

Reaffirming that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[6] and his note on the modalities of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;[7]

2. *Welcomes* the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2] and notes the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[8] as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;

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[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap I.
[2] Ibid., chap. II.
[3] See resolution 55/2.
[4] See resolution 60/1.
[5] A/C.2/63/8, annex.
[6] A/63/77-E/2008/61.
[7] A/63/284.
[8] A/61/117, annex I.

3. *Also welcomes* the Declaration[9] adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development;

4. *Decides* to convene, as called for in paragraph 114 of the Brussels Programme of Action, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011 for a duration of not more than five working days, the mandate of the Conference being the following one:

(a) To undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade 2001-2010 by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them;

(b) To identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them;

(c) To reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, in particular the needs related to sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and to support the least developed countries in eradicating poverty and integrating beneficially into the global economy;

(d) To mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries and, in this regard, to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners;

5. *Also decides* to convene, towards the end of 2010 and/or early in 2011, an intergovernmental preparatory committee, which would hold no more than two meetings;

6. *Further decides* that the meeting of the preparatory committee will be preceded by two regional-level preparatory meetings, one in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the other in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in the context of the regular annual sessions of each Commission, those regional-level meetings to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations;

7. *Stresses* that the Conference and the preparatory activities should be carried out so as to remain within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2010-2011 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

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[9] See resolution 61/1.

8. *Decides* to take a decision on the organizational aspects, date and venue of the Conference, and on the venue, duration and dates of the preparatory committee meetings, before the end of its sixty-third session;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of the contributions of civil society actors at the Conference and in its preparatory process, and in this regard stresses the need for their active participation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

10. *Decides* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will be the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, in accordance with mandates given in General Assembly resolution 56/227, to ensure that those preparations are carried out effectively, and to mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

11. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, and funds and programmes, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the Conference itself;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in preparations for the Conference, in particular in the country- and regional-level preparations;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system in the preparatory process for the Conference in a coordinated and coherent manner, inter alia, through making use of the existing coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as well as on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the state of the substantive, organizational and logistic preparations for the Conference.

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Agenda item 52 (b)

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Awsan **Al-Aud** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 52 (see A/63/417, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 28th and 31st meetings, on 20 November and 10 December 2008. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/63/SR.28 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/63/L.40 and A/C.2/63/L.59

2. At the 28th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit

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Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/63/L.40), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/204 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006 and 62/204 of 19 December 2007,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recognizing* that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

"*Recognizing also* that cooperation between transit countries and landlocked developing countries results in better transit transport systems,

"*Expressing support* to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities, in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,

"*Reaffirming* that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

"2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

"3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

"4. *Further reaffirms* its commitment to the declaration adopted by the ministers and heads of delegation participating in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to urgently addressing the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

"5. *Acknowledges* the assessment of the midterm review, at which it was stressed that, despite some progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, the landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized from international trade, thus preventing them from fully using trade as an instrument for achieving their development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems;

"6. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries, with the support of their development partners, to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to further accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking full account of the measures and actions identified in the declaration on the midterm review, and recommends, in this regard, that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, should be strengthened in support of landlocked and transit developing countries;

"7. *Notes* that the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations on trade facilitation, particularly on the relevant articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, such as article V on freedom of transit, article VIII on fees and formalities and article X on transparency, in accordance with the modalities contained in annex D of the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 1 August 2004, are particularly important if landlocked developing countries are to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as the improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, and, in this context, that technical assistance should be provided to developing countries, in particular to landlocked developing countries;

"8. *Calls upon* donors and the multilateral, regional, financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications, to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

"9. *Calls upon* development partners to effectively operationalize the Aid for Trade initiative so as to support trade facilitation measures and trade-related technical assistance, as well as the diversification of export products through the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and private sector involvement in landlocked developing countries;

"10. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty

Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the declaration on the midterm review;

"11. *Encourages* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to ensure coordinated follow-up and effective monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and to step up its advocacy efforts to raise international awareness and mobilize resources, as well as to further develop cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system in order to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the declaration on the midterm review;

"12. *Encourages* the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to continue their efforts to work with landlocked and transit developing countries to develop integrated regional transit transport systems, harmonize regulatory requirements and procedures for import/export and transit with international conventions and standards, promote intermodal transport corridors, encourage access to and more effective implementation of international conventions on transit transport and assist in the establishment of national trade and transport facilitation coordination mechanisms and in improving the planning and development of the missing links in regional infrastructure networks, especially in Africa;

"13. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular its Division on Technology and Logistics and its Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, to continue its technical assistance activities and analytical work related to transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries;

"14. *Encourages* donors and the international financial and development institutions, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session an analytical report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the declaration on the midterm review;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled 'Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing

Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/63/L.59), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Awsan Al-Aud (Yemen), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.40.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Committee made a statement (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

6. Also at its 31st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.59 (see para. 9).

7. After the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.59, a statement was made by the representative of Kazakhstan (see A/C.2/63/SR.31).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.40 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006 and 62/204 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[3]

Recalling the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[4] an initiative for accelerating regional economic cooperation and development, as many landlocked and transit developing countries are located in Africa,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[4] A/57/304, annex.

Recalling its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008, in which it adopted the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action; [5]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe their legitimate interests;

4. *Further reaffirms* its full commitment to the Declaration[6] adopted by the Ministers and heads of delegations participating in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to urgently addressing the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

5. *Acknowledges* that landlocked and transit developing countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America have strengthened their policy and governance reform efforts and that donor countries, financial and development institutions and international and regional organizations have paid greater attention to the establishment of efficient transit systems; notes with concern, however, that the landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized from international trade, thus preventing them from fully using trade as an instrument for achieving their development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems; and therefore notes the importance of the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations on trade facilitation, particularly on the relevant articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade that are important to landlocked developing countries, such as those referred to in the Declaration on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action;

6. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the Declaration, to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

7. *Calls upon* donors and the multilateral, regional, financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links

[5] A/63/165.

[6] See resolution 63/2.

and improved communications, so as to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

8. *Calls upon* the development partners to effectively operationalize the Aid for Trade initiative so as to support trade facilitation measures and trade-related technical assistance, as well as the diversification of export products through the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and private sector involvement in landlocked developing countries;

9. *Encourages* the international community to enhance efforts to facilitate access to and encourage the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technology;

10. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

11. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations, and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the Declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, inter alia, through well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to ensure coordinated follow-up and effective monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and to step up its advocacy efforts directed towards raising international awareness and mobilizing resources, as well as to further develop cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system in order to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

13. *Encourages* the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to continue their efforts to work with landlocked and transit developing countries to develop integrated regional transit transport systems, harmonize regulatory requirements and procedures for import/export and transit with international conventions and standards, promote intermodal transport corridors, encourage access to and more effective implementation of international conventions on transit transport, and assist in the establishment of national trade and transport facilitation coordination mechanisms and in improving the planning and development of the missing links in regional infrastructure networks, especially in Africa;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to strengthen its technical assistance activities and analytical work related to logistics and transit transport cooperation;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations Development Programme to enhance its provision of trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building programmes to landlocked developing countries;

16. *Invites* the World Trade Organization to continue to provide technical assistance to landlocked developing countries in order to enhance their negotiating capabilities;

17. *Invites* the World Bank to continue to give priority to requests for technical assistance to supplement national and regional efforts to promote the efficient use of existing transit facilities, including the application of information technologies and the simplification of procedures and documents;

18. *Invites* the World Customs Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations to continue to strengthen the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes to landlocked and transit developing countries in the area of customs reform, simplification and harmonization of procedures, and enforcement and compliance;

19. *Encourages* donors and the international financial and development institutions, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session an analytical report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".